THE THIRD DAY

23rd February 1916.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 23rd February 1916.

6. Irregularities in thework of land records maintenance in the Vilavankod taluk and the want of uniformity in the assessment of tharavila on porambokе and tharisu lands.

Mr. C. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) said that a large portion of the land in the taluk, now treated as porambokes, was really registered land. Taking the case of river-porambokes, he said that, at the time of survey of the lands bordering on the Kuzhithura river in about 1060 M. E., the demarcation stones were planted a little into the interior of the adjoining registered holdings to prevent their being washed away by the current during the rainy season. At the time of settlement, those demarcation stones were taken as fixing the boundaries of the registered holdings, the outlying portions being treated as porambokes. The pattas granted to the owners included the tax-paying trees on the outlying portions but, as the rough pattas did not mention the original area of the holdings, the ryots were unable at the time to complain of the deficiency in the area and have the same rectified. During the course of land records maintenance, the treatment at the settlement was rigidly followed and the outlying portions taken as porambokes and the trees on them leased on kuthagapattom. Since the bed of the river was on a lower level than the lands, it could not be that the porambokes in question were formed by the alluvial deposits from the river. Further, the trees standing on the porambokes were more than fifty years old, which fact would show that they were planted by the owners many years before the survey and settlement. Those trees, if leased on kuthagapattom to others, would preclude the owners from making use of the river for bathing or for communal or irrigation purposes. The Member therefore prayed that the people of the taluk might be granted the same relief as was granted to the owners of registered holdings on the banks of the Neyyar and Chittar rivers in the Neyyattinkara taluk in G. O. No. 341/L. R., dated the 23rd December 1913, and G. O. No. 12,296/L. R., dated the 14th December 1914.

The Member also represented that unassessed waste lands in the taluk were classed as porambokes for the reason that they were recorded as kadu tharisu, kadu porambokе or tharisu porambokе at the settlement and a higher rate of tharavila realised when they were brought under registry after transfer to the head of assessed waste. He prayed that the same rate of tharavila and assessment might be fixed for such lands as in the case of the adjoining tharisu lands.

Dewan's reply.—A petition on this subject having been received from some of the people in the Vilavankod taluk, it has been already referred to the Peishkar for report. If the river-porambokes referred to by the Member are exactly similar to those on the banks of the Neyyar and Chittar, with respect to which some concessions have been allowed, the Government would be prepared to extend the same concessions to these lands also.

7. Reduction of tharavila on puduval lands in the Nedumangad taluk.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) said that the tharavila and assessment on puduval lands were a rupee and a fanam, respectively, per acre, some years ago. Those rates had now been raised to Rs. 5 and Re. 1, respectively, if the lands in question were beyond ten miles from the town of Trivandrum, and to Rs. 10 and Re. 1, respectively, if the lands were within a radius of ten miles. High rates of tharavila and assessment, combined with the increased poverty of the people, had greatly discouraged the registry of puduval lands. The people and the Government were both losers on that account. He therefore prayed that the tharavila be reduced to Rs. 3 per acre in respect of puduvals lying beyond ten miles from the town, and to Rs. 5 for those lying within ten miles.

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He also complained against the practice of registering large areas in the names of single individuals as that benefited only the foreigners and wealthy Government officers to the detriment of real agriculturists. He therefore prayed that it be ruled that more than five acres should not be registered in the name of a single individual.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Reduction of the tharavila on lands reclaimed from backwaters.

Mr. K. Velayudha Panikkan (Member, Nominated) said that the Arayars lived mainly on the coast in Central Travancore and that their chief occupations were fish and coir industries. They were badly in need of sites for their habitation, the want of which retarded the progress of the industries to a great extent. It was not possible for them to go in for the registry of puduval lands in the interior, as their industries were centred on the coast. They could not take registry of kayal porambokes in their names on account of the prohibitive tharavila and assessment on such lands. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to order the registry of kayal porambokes in their names recovering tharavila and assessment at rates not exceeding Rs. 15 and Re. 1, respectively, per acre.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Necessity for a uniform rate of tharavila and assessment on puduval and poramboke lands.

Mr. K. Kochukunju Kurup (Member, Changanachery taluk) said that, though clause (6) of Rule 11 of the Puduval Rules, dated the 24th September 1914, fixed a minimum rate of tharavila of Rs. 25 per acre on reclamations from rivers, canals and backwaters, there were cases, in certain pakuthies of the Changanachery taluk, in which the rate had gone so high as Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per cent. It required more than a thousand rupees to reclaim an acre of land and, with the tharavila, the price of land came to about Rs. 2,500 per acre, which was more than the market value of land in those pakuthies. If the prohibitive tharavila was not paid, the authorities put up the lands to auction and the original reclaimer lost his investment. There was also a similar complaint in regard to fixing the assessment on puduval lands. Para 6 of Rule 16 of the Puduval Rules laid down that, for puduval lands registered as wet, the rate of assessment should be fixed on the basis of the schedule of settlement rates for wet lands and on the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood. The Member pointed out that the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood was never taken into consideration and he quoted a few instances of departure from the wholesome rule. In view of the above difficulties and hardships, the Member prayed that a maximum rate of tharavila be fixed, which should not under any circumstances be exceeded, and also that instructions be issued to pay due regard to the tharam of neighbouring registered lands, in fixing the rate of assessment for puduval lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. Revision of the tharavila on cardamom lands.

Mr. Sanyasi Mallayan Chetty (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the raising of the tharavila on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre towards the close of 1089 fell heavily on the cardamom ryots. The season was not, in recent years, suitable for cardamom cultivation and the yield had therefore fallen very low. Further, owing to the war, the price of cardamom had also gone down. The condition of the cardamom ryots was very miserable at the present day and, if sympathetic aid were not accorded to them, they would be reduced to utter poverty. He represented that, in spite of the Government order cancelling the penal assessment imposed by the Commissioner, on cardamom lands occupied without permission, the amount realized under that head was not returned to the ryots who had paid the same.

Dewan.—The order was not intended to have retrospective effect and the refund of the amount already realized cannot be made.

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